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		<i>DB=PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	L3	L2 and natural killer cell	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	L2	L1 and adenosine	573
		<i>DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	L1	(514/45,46;536/27.22,27.6,27.63)(CCLS]	895

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FILE 'STNGUIDE' ENTERED AT 10:53:34 ON 10 NOV 2004

FILE 'HOME' ENTERED AT 10:53:39 ON 10 NOV 2004

FILE 'CAPLUS, MEDLINE, USPATFULL, EUROPATFULL' ENTERED AT 10:54:05 ON 10 NOV 2004

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L1      10878 S ADENOSINE (S) AGONIST
L2      204 S L1 (P) (VIRUS OR VIRAL OR BACTERIA OR PROTOZOA)
L3      6 S L2 AND IB-MECA
L4      84 S L2 (P) CANCER
L5      31 S L4 (P) LEUKEMIA
L6      49919 S LEUKEMIA (S) (VIRUS OR VIRAL OR BACTERIA OR PROTOZOA)
L7      49919 S LEUKEMIA (S) (VIRUS OR VIRAL OR BACTERIA OR PROTOZOA)
L8      0 S IB-MECA (P) ANTIVIRAL
L9      3 S IB-MECA (P) ANTIBACTERIAL
L10     46936 S LEUKEMIA (S) VIRUS
L11     658 S L10 (P) ADENOSINE
L12     18 S L11 (P) (ADENOSINE (S) AGONIST)
L13     982 S L10 (S) BACTERIA
L14     127 S L13 (S) PROTOZOA
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Virus blamed for cervical cancer may cause oral cancer

By LAURAN NEERGAARD -- The Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- The virus that causes genital warts and most cervical cancers also appears to be linked with some oral cancers, scientists said Tuesday.

But tumours from the human papilloma virus may be much less deadly than other cancers of the head and neck that are usually caused by smoking or alcohol, they added.

"We were surprised," said Dr. Maura Gillison, a Johns Hopkins University oncologist who began the study expecting to disprove the viral link.

Instead, she said, "we think we found a cause for these cancers in people who don't smoke or drink."

Her findings are so strong that Hopkins researchers developing an experimental vaccine-like treatment to fight cervical cancer are preparing to test the therapy on oral cancer patients.

The discovery, in the current Journal of the National Cancer Institute, is very exciting, said Harvard Medical School biochemist Karl Munger, an expert on human papilloma virus, or HPV.

"If you know what causes a cancer, you can much better define what strategy to use to combat it."

About 350,000 people worldwide, including 3,000 Canadians, are diagnosed with oral cancers each year.

Dr. David Wong of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine said oral cancers are disfiguring and hard to treat, and half of patients die within five years, a toll that hasn't changed much in two decades.

Smoking and heavy alcohol use are the chief causes. But about 15

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per cent of patients don't have those risk factors.

The Hopkins research implicates a strain of HPV in some of those cases, suggesting it causes a unique type of oral cancer.

Gillison tested head-and-neck tumours taken from 253 patients and detected HPV in 25 per cent of them. The virus was only in tumours in the tonsils and base of the tongue, and HPV-positive tumours tended to occur in non-smokers who drank little alcohol.

More important, patients with HPV-positive tumours had a 59 per cent lower chance of dying during the study.

But Gillison still was skeptical. Just because the virus was in a tumour didn't mean it caused the cancer.

So she gave the tissue samples to pathology specialists, who discovered that under a microscope, HPV-positive oral cancer has unique cellular characteristics almost identical to HPV-caused cervical cancer.

The next step: Alcohol and tobacco both disable a gene called p53 that is supposed to fight cancer, and almost half of all oral cancers have specific alcohol- or tobacco-caused p53 mutations.

HPV, in contrast, can cause cervical cancer without stopping to mutate p53. Indeed, a gene check showed the HPV-positive tonsil cancer had far fewer p53 defects than HPV-negative tumours.

"With all of this, we were convinced," Gillison concluded.

The study didn't address how HPV is infecting people's throats, but Gillison said oral sex or something as simple as unwashed hands could explain it.

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